

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STUTTG 00313 051122Z

13-12

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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USIA FOR FRANK STROVAS, ED CONTROL OFFICER; BONN FOR USIS
AND SCIENCE ATTACHE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG GW

SUBJ: ZARB ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE

REF: BONN 1399, STUTTGART 278, STUTTGART 298 STUTTGART A-11

1. IN PREPARATION FOR MARCH 8 STUTTGART ED, FEDERAL ENERGY
ADMINISTRATOR ZARB SHOULD BE AWARE THAT CURRENT CONTROVERSY
HERE OVER PLAN TO CONSTRUCT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN WYHL IS
HEATING UP AGAIN DURING ONGOING CAMPAIGN FOR APRIL 4 BADEN-
WUERTTEMBERG STATE ELECTIONS. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ARE:

A. CITIZEN ACTION GROUPS REFUSED LAST WEEK TO ACCEPT AGREE-
MENT WORKED OUT JANUARY 31 BY GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND CITI-
ZEN GROUP LEADERS AFTER MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS (SEE A-11)
AFTER MARCH 3 CABINET MEETING, MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER
(CDU) SAID CURRENT POSITION OF ACTION GROUPS IS NOT ACCEPT-
ABLE, AND ASKED THESE GROUPS (RANGING FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND
WINEGROWERS TO IDEALISTIC ENVIRONMENTALISTS) TO RECONSIDER.

B. ALSO ON MARCH 3, SPD LEADER EPPLER, PRINCIPAL OPPONENT OF
FILBINGER IN STATE ELECTIONS, TOOK MORE CONCILIATORY VIEW
TOWARD OPPONENTS OF WYHL PLANT. EPPLER PROMISED THAT AN SPD
GOVERNMENT WOULD UPHOLD PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF JANUARY 31
AGREEMENT: E.G. NO CONSTRUCTION BEFORE NOVEMBER (THAT IS,
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PAGE 02 STUTTG 00313 051122Z

UNTIL AFTER FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS), AND OPPONENTS

COULD CHOOSE INDEPENDENT EXPERTS TO STUDY LIKELY IMPACT OF NUCLEAR PLANT ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT. EPPLER EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPPONENTS AND TO SEEK AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND GOVERNING CONSTRUCTION AND CONTROL OF NUCLEAR PLANTS IN UPPER RHINE AREA.

2. MEANWHILE, CONTROVERSY IN US OVER NUCLEAR POWER IS RECEIVING MORE ATTENTION HERE. LEADING LOCAL NEWSPAPER, "STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG", YESTERDAY GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO WASHINGTON STORY OF CHARGES BY THREE EX-GE ENGINEERS (HUBBARD, MINOR AND BRIDENBAUGH) THAT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ARE UNSAFE, INCLUDING STATEMENT THAT 20 STATE GOVERNORS HAVE BANNED NUCLEA CONSTRUCTION.

3. IN VIEW OF CURRENT PRESS COVERAGE, ZARB SHOULD BE PREPARED TO FIELD QUESTIONS ON THESE HOT SUBJECTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE OUTLINED IN REFTELS. PANEL MEMBERS ARE BEING URGED TO KEEP QUESTIONS CONCISE IN ORDER TO MAKE BEST USE OF LIMITED TIME. JENKINS

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